

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Charge and Ground Rules for the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

(Draft for review, revision and adoption)

Presented to the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

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Overview

- Charge of MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG)
 - Responsibilities as members
- Proposed Ground Rules
 - Agreement on how to engage effectively
 - Guidance on conduct and collaboration, commitment to the process, decision rules, meeting format, information sharing, media contact, NCRSG communications, etc.

Main Charge of the NCRSG

- Consider existing MPAs relative to the MLPA
- Develop alternative proposals to meet the goals of the MLPA
- Contribute local knowledge
- Reach out to broader constituent groups



Key Responsibilities

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- Express fundamental interests rather than fixed positions
- Work together collaboratively; seek to integrate the interests of a broad range of constituencies
- Check back with constituencies (bring in their input and keep them informed of NCRSG progress)
- Identify and consider alternative MPA proposals
 - Iterative process (multiple rounds of evaluations)
 - Build on work of external MPA array community groups
 - Be open to ideas from other NCRSG members/public
 - Treat preliminary proposals as tentative until presented to the NCRSG
- Commit to completing all aspects of charge of NCRSG

Developing the Ground Rules

Sources of Information

- Experience from past MLPA study regions
- North coast stakeholder interviews
- Kearns & West's professional experience



Key Input from Interviews

- Ground rules viewed as important
- Timely sharing of information
- Importance of confidentiality
- Need for people to be comfortable (safe space)
- Show respect to others
- Focus on meeting tasks at hand; don't multi-task
- Stay on task; avoid "broken record"
- Aim for compromise
- Be judicious in dealings with the media
- Wariness of voting; need for clear decision rule
- Need for effective communications with science team
- Support for strong, effective facilitation

Ground Rules

Commitment to Process

- Good faith effort to achieve NCRSG charge
 - Meeting attendance
 - Meeting preparation and homework
 - Commitment to ground rules
- Any NCRSG member may lose appointment if he/she consistently violates ground rules



Ground Rules

Participation and Collaboration

- Active, full participation
 - Communicating ideas and offering meaningful dialogue
- Focused participation
 - Everyone keeps the meetings on track
- Respectful interaction
 - Respecting integrity, diversity, and legitimacy of others; no personal attacks
- Integrative thinking and satisfying mutual interests
 - Collaborative problem-solving approach

Ground Rules

Meeting Format

- Public (plenary) meetings
- Work sessions (“safe space” to get work done)
- Cross-interest work groups

Decision Making

- Formal decisions – staff will request expressions of support (“can live with”)
- Strive for broad based support in proposals
- Use straw polls to get sense of group’s views and arrive at short term-decisions

Ground Rules

Coordination with Task Force and Science Team

- MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) will provide policy/process guidance, as needed
- MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT)
- sub/team participation
- SAT to address science questions

Information Sharing and Joint Fact Finding

- Best readily available information
- NCRSG to work with SAT and staff to provide information to process and address areas of apparent data conflicts
- Confidentiality issues – share information as appropriate



Ground Rules

Media Contact

- Media inquiries of staff will be handled by Annie Reisewitz (MLPA Initiative) and Kirsten McIntyre (California Department of Fish and Game)
 - Resource for NCRSG members
- Balance outreach with respect for process
- Communication with media should not undermine success of MLPA
- Avoid the following:
 - Prejudging outcomes
 - Representing another’s viewpoint
 - Commenting on proposals still in development



NCRSG Communications

- Employ ground rules in all NCRSG communications
- Judicious use of listserv – focus on specific work of NCRSG

Public Comment

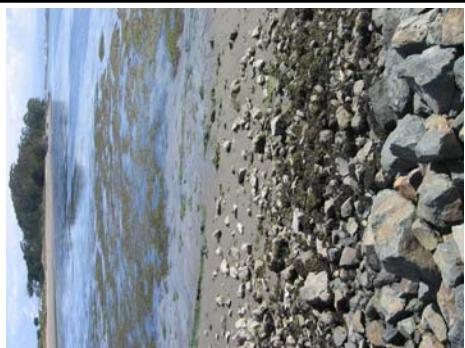
- Public comment period at meetings
- Written public comment
- Intended to inform NCRSG deliberations
- Guidance for public comment exists



Ground Rules

Facilitation Team

- Neutral – focus is on ensuring a good process
- Help enforce ground rules
- Ensure effective use of time
- Key outcomes memoranda to highlight outcomes of meetings



Discussion of Ground Rules

- Are the ground rules clear?
- Do you have any specific additions or revisions to the ground rules?
- Can you agree to support and uphold these ground rules?